

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 18, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 8, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 44

Introduced by Senator Corbett

May 6, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44—Relative to child care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 44, as amended, Corbett. Child care.

This measure would request the State Department of Education to *hold an open meeting* to review California's current regional market rate methodology and implementation guidelines for subsidized child care, and question whether adherence to the current regional market rate system has resulted in sufficient access for working poor families. The measure would also request that the department ~~operate~~ *hold* an open and transparent process *meeting* where all vested stakeholders are fully versed in the methodology used for the regional market rate survey and ~~are included in the planning and implementation process being undertaken by the department to establish new rates or a new rate structure.~~ The measure would also request that the department, on or before April 1, 2010, ~~submit a report to the Legislature~~ *hold an open meeting* relating to ~~its~~ *the department's* review of California's current regional market rate methodology and implementation guidelines, and any recommended changes to the current methodology.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1990, the federal government began a major
- 2 investment in child care with the passage of the Child Care and

1 Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 9858 et
2 seq); and

3 WHEREAS, In 1996 CCDBG was expanded as part of federal
4 welfare reform legislation called the Personal Responsibility and
5 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PROWORA). At that time,
6 the child care funding component became known as the Child Care
7 and Development Fund (CCDF); and

8 WHEREAS, A vital cornerstone of CCDF funding is parental
9 choice. Allowing families the ability to choose a child care
10 environment that best meets the needs of the child and the family
11 is an integral part of keeping children learning while parents are
12 earning; and

13 WHEREAS, The intent of both the federal and state child care
14 subsidy programs is to ensure that families have equal access to
15 child care providers who provide child care to nonsubsidized
16 families; and

17 WHEREAS, The subsidized child care reimbursement system
18 should be based on the current regional market rates of child care
19 providers who provide care to private nonsubsidized families; and

20 WHEREAS, California's child care provider reimbursement
21 rate should be updated no less than every two years in accordance
22 with requirements of the United States Department of Health and
23 Human Services and be included as part of California's State Plan;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The methodology for the California regional market
26 rate survey was last approved in 2005. The methodology approved
27 takes into account 12 different variables including median home
28 values, median gross rent, median real estate taxes, and median
29 household income; and

30 WHEREAS, The California economy has changed dramatically
31 since the methodology for the regional market rate was approved
32 and these changes may have an adverse impact on the upcoming
33 regional market rate survey; and

34 WHEREAS, By the time California conducts and implements
35 the market rate survey, often it is already out-of-date; and

36 WHEREAS, Families are disadvantaged with outdated rates
37 that limit the access to providers who are willing and able to
38 provide quality child care to subsidized children; and

39 WHEREAS, The regulations that govern the implementation
40 of the California regional market rate ceilings can be

1 administratively burdensome and are in need of a more simplified
2 process; and

3 WHEREAS, The regional market rate development process has
4 become inadequate in providing a reasonable rate that affords
5 families access to high quality child care programs and does not
6 always represent the true cost of care; now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
8 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature requests the State
9 Department of Education to *hold an open meeting* to review
10 California's current regional market rate methodology and
11 implementation guidelines, and question whether adherence to the
12 current regional market rate system has resulted in sufficient access
13 for working poor families; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests that the State Department
15 of Education ~~operate an open and transparent process~~ *hold an open*
16 *meeting* where all vested stakeholders are fully versed in the
17 methodology used for the regional market rate survey ~~and are~~
18 ~~included in the planning and implementation process being~~
19 ~~undertaken by the State Department of Education to establish new~~
20 ~~rates or a new rate structure~~; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests that the State Department
22 of Education, on or before April 1, 2010, ~~submit a report to the~~
23 ~~Legislature relating to its~~ *hold an open meeting relating to the*
24 *department's* review of California's current regional market rate
25 methodology and implementation guidelines, and any
26 recommended changes to the current methodology; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.